

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009126

TOSEC 117

THE FOL TEL FROM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS DATED JAN 15, 1974
TO SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON BONN BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN LUXEMBOURG PARIS ROME THE HAGUE GENEVA OECD PARIS
AND NATO IS REPTED.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0255

E.O. 11652; GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ENRG, EEC, US

SUBJECT: JANUARY 14-15 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING--

PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION TO ENERGY CONFERENCE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 243

1. COUNCIL HAVE NOT YET COMPLETED ITS CONSIDERATION OF THE
PRESIDENT'S INVITATION, SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL, HOWEVER, THE
COUNCIL OF (FOREIGN) MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAS
DECIDED TO SEND A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE COMMUNITY TO
PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION TO AN ENERGY CONFERENCE IN
WASHINGTON ON FEBRUARY 11. THE COUNCIL'S DECISION WILL BE
INCORPORATED IN A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT FROM CHANCELLOR
BRANDT. THE LETTER WILL INDICATE THAT (A) THE COMMUNITY SHOULD
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BE INVITED TO THE CONFERENCE, (B) THE COMMUNITY WILL BE

REPRESENTED BY THE EC COUNCIL PRESIDENT AND THE EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT, AND (C) ALL MEMBER STATES SHOULD ALSO BE INVITED TO ATTEND. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET AND POSSIBLE VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES WILL ACCOMPANY ORTOLI.) IT WILL BE UP TO EACH MEMBER STATE TO RESPOND TO THE INVITATION ON A NATIONAL BASIS AND, AS INDICATED IN PARA 3 BELOW, THERE REMAINS A SERIOUS QUESTION ABOUT THE FRENCH.

2. THE COMMISSION IS TO DRAW UP PROPOSALS FOR A COMMUNITY POSITION AT THE ENERGY CONFERENCE. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS AT THEIR COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4-5. IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STRAUSS-KHUPPE ON JANUARY 15, EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SIMONET INDICATED THAT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON A COMMUNITY POSITION WILL BE LARGELY PROCEDURAL. (SIMONET ALSO INDICATED THAT IN HIS PERSONAL VIEW FRANCE WILL ASK A HEAVY PRICE FOR ITS AGREEMENT TO GO ALONG WITH A COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION.) THE COUNCIL HAS AGREED THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL TRY TO SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE AT THE CONFERENCE BUT THIS WILL NOT EXCLUDE ANY ONE MEMBER STATE FROM ALSO EXPRESSING ITS OWN VIEWS. FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL MADE THE POINT THAT THE EC MEMBER STATES SHOULD CONCERT TO HARMONIZE THEIR POSITIONS BEFORE AND DURING THE CONFERENCE.

3. DESPITE THIS GENERALLY POSITIVE SITUATION, WE HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING FROM A SENIOR COMMISSION OFFICIAL, THAT THE FRENCH HAVE LEFT THEIR POSITION ON ATTENDING THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNCLEAR. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, JOBERT STATED FRANCE HAS NOT YET DEFINITELY DECIDED WHETHER TO ATTEND. HE IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID ALSO THAT IF FRANCE HAS TO DECIDE IMMEDIATELY, IT WOULD PROBABLY DECIDE NOT TO GO. IN BRIEFING THE PRESS EARLIER TODAY, A FRENCH DELEGATION SPOKESMAN SAID THAT EARLY IN THE COUNCIL DISCUSSION FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT HAD ADVANCED THE IDEA THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL, AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT, COULD BE DEPUTIZED TO REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, BUT WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER HE WAS SERIOUSLY SUGGESTING THAT SCHEEL ATTEND IN LIEU OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES.

4. THE FRENCH SPOKESMAN SAID JOBERT HAD PROPOSED THAT IN THIS
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EVEN THE COMMUNITY TAKE THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: (A) ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD BE FREE TO MAKE THEIR OWN BILATERAL CONTRACTS WITH THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES; (B) ALL COUNTRIES SHOULD SHARE IN THE RESULTS OF RESEARCH ON ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY; (C) THERE SHOULD BE A COMMON STUDY OF THE ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE OIL CRISIS; (D) THERE SHOULD BE A GLOBAL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK OR GENEVA IN WHICH ALL COUNTRIES CONCERNED, RICH AND POOR, PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS, SHOULD

PARTICIPATE; AND (E) EXISTING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE UN AND OECD, SHOULD BE USED. HOWEVER, NONE OF THE OTHER EC NINE SUPPORTED THESE FRENCH PROPOSALS. JOBERT IS ALSO REPORTED TO HAVE CHARACTERIZED THE US INITIATIVE IN CALLING THE CONFERENCE AS OVER-DRAMATIZING THE SITUATION.

5. DURING COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS, THE COMMISSION TOOK THE POSITION THAT THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEMBER STATES SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE ENERGY CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO EXPLORE THE BEST METHODS FOR DEALING WITH THE PROBLEMS OF ENERGY ON AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL. THE COMMISSION STRESSED THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN IN THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TO CONTACTS WITH THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES, AND THAT THERE COULD BE NO QUESTION OF CREATING A GROUP OF CONSUMER COUNTRIES OPPOSED TO THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES. THE COMMISSION ALSO SAID THAT PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE SHOULD BE PAID TO THE NON OIL-PRODUCING LDCS, AND THAT THE COMMUNITY SHOULD MAKE ITS POSITION KNOWN TO THE OPEC COUNTRIES.

6. THE COUNCIL HAS NOT COMPLETED ITS CONSIDERATION OF THIS SUBJECT AS OF 5 P.M. JANUARY 15 AND MUST STILL GIVE ITS FINAL APPROVAL TO THE POSITION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 ABOVE. THE COUNCIL IS NOW AGAIN DISCUSSING REGIONAL POLICY. WE WILL REPORT THE COUNCIL'S FINAL ACTION AS SOON AS WE CONFIRM IT HAS BEEN TAKEN. GREENWALD

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